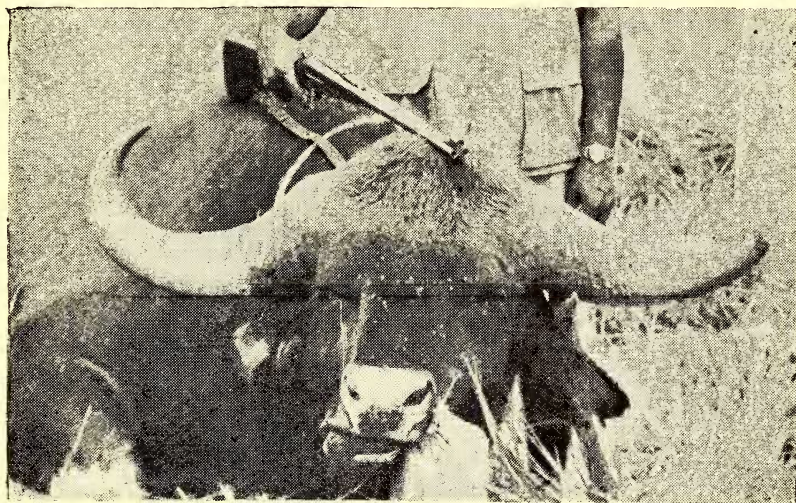


[In Rowland Ward's 'Records of Big Game' (1928) the largest head of the Malayan Bison is widest outside 38" and circumference at base 16½". Foenander in his recent book 'Big Game of Malaya' p. 61 records one shot by Da Prah at Kuala Jelai in Negri Sembilan as 46" outside width and circumference at base 20½". Length from tip to tip across the forehead (sweep) 78½".—EDS.]

7. THE RECORD SPREAD OF GAUR HORNS (*BIBOS GAURUS*)

(With a photo)

On 27th November, 1951, my friend, Mr. Maruthasala Gownder Landlord, Saravanapatti Village, Coimbatore District, shot a huge solitary bull bison in the Talamalai Range of North Coimbatore Division.



The left horn is blunt and worn out to nearly one-third of its length (photo). Had it been full, the spread would have measured another three or four inches. As it is, it measures 48 inches. I was on the spot and took down the measurements carefully. They are as follows :

1. Length of right horn	... 30½"
2. Length of left horn	... 19"
3. Girth of right horn	... 20½"
4. Girth of left horn	... 19½"
5. Spread. Widest outside	... 48"
6. Span. Tip to tip in straight line	... 44"
7. Sweep across forehead	... 73"
8. Girth round body (behind shoulder)	... 10 ft.

9. Height at shoulder	...	6 ft. 5½"
10. Total length over curves from nose tip to end of tail	...	13 ft. 10½"

15/15, PERUMAL KOIL STREET,
FORT, COIMBATORE,
January 4, 1952.

B. SUBBIAH PILLAY,

[Messrs. Van Ingen & Van Ingen, taxidermists of Mysore, to whom the head was sent for mounting, wrote to us: 'The bison head received from Mr. Maruthasala Gownder cannot be measured in its present condition as the horns are severed at the base and for some reason a greater part of the core remains firmly inside of the horn. Whether the boiling has caused this or disease we cannot say. Bison heads with horns should never be boiled.'

In a subsequent letter they indicate the following measurements:—

Widest outside	...	47"
Girth	...	19½"

The letter adds 'it is unfortunate that one horn is broken off at the end and 10" missing, spoiling its symmetry and a beautiful trophy.

'These measurements are likely to have differed from the original taken when the bison was shot in view of the fact that the skull of this bison appeared to be very porous and the bone was soft and light. The cores of the horns were each four inches in length and hollow, whereas the horns themselves were solid nearly as far as the cavity allowed for the core.'

This certainly appears to be the Gaur head with the largest spread so far recorded. Rowland Ward's 'Records of Big Game' (1928) gives the widest outside as 44¾" and circumference at the base 20" (Lt.-Col. C. H. Stockley, Siam).

The largest head from South India is: widest outside 43¾"; circumference at base 17½". It was shot at Parambikolam (Cochin State) by G. Elliot Browning—Eds.]

8. CATTLE DISEASES AND WILD LIFE

Between 15 and 20 bison have died recently from foot and mouth disease, and several more are affected, in the Kollegal Division of the Coimbatore District, having caught that disease from the village cattle penned in the hill forests owing to the lack of grazing down below.

Had these cattle introduced rinderpest as well, a tragedy similar to that of 1929 would have overwhelmed the large number of bison here.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
VIA MYSORE (S. INDIA),
June 7, 1952.

RANDOLPH C. MORRIS